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# EPA Environmental News Release

May 26, 1982 For more information call 223-2223 or 223-6704 Paul G. Geough

BOSTON . . . The Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced today that consent agreements and final orders have been issued to two New Bedford companies that will require the cleanup of creosote deposits of the coke chemical polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

The orders were negotiated with Cornell-Dubilier Electronics Inc., and Aerovox Inc., according to EPA Administrator Anne Gorsuch.

Ms. Gorsuch, at a Boston press conference, said that under the terms of the agreement Cornell-Dubilier will undertake an immediate cleanup program that will cost about \$400,000.

The company will pave a large area behind the plant, remove PCB contaminated dirt piles and install monitoring wells on the plant property. In addition, a low lying area will be capped with an impermeable material, discharge lines to the city sewer will be cleaned, and future discharges will be monitored for PCB content.

"The Cornell-Dubilier agreement and order settle a complaint joined simultaneously to resolve violations of the Federal Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA). Congress passed TSCA in 1976 to regulate chemical substances which present risks to public health or the environment."

Cornell-Dubilier has stated that it will comply with the terms of the agreement and order without admitting to any of the information on which it is based.

Under the Aerovox order, the company has agreed to carry out through independent consultants, a study of PCB's in the soil and ground water behind the plant which is on the banks of the Acushnet River. The order also requires Aerovox to study various cleanup alternatives at the site and to implement a cleanup program approved by EPA and the state.

The order is issued under provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, which authorizes EPA to take action to address potential hazards to public health or the environment which may be posed by hazardous substances, including those which were disposed of before present laws and regulations went into effect. Aerovox has consented to comply with the order without admitting that a potential hazard exists.

PCB's were manufactured in the United States from 1929 to 1977. PCB's were, and continue to be, used primarily as cooling and insulating fluids in electrical transformers and capacitors. Some studies have shown that PCB's cause birth defects and reproductive disorders in animals. It has also shown to be potentially carcinogenic in animal testing.

Both companies ceased using PCB's in the mid 1970's. Both have cooperated with EPA and the state in addressing the PCB problem.

"We believe that this program, once fully implemented, will contain the spread of PCB's from these two facilities. Although it represents only one step in resolving the very serious environmental problems in New Bedford Harbor, we regard this as an important beginning," the EPA Administrator concluded.